



WASHINGTON STATE
GAMBLING COMMISSION

Field Operation Rule Interpretation

Question: Who can possess bingo equipment without a license?

CITE: WAC 230-12-335, RCW 9.46.0321

SUMMARY

Issue:

- Can a Charitable/Nonprofit organization possess bingo equipment without a license? YES
- Can a distributor or manufacturer sell bingo equipment to an unlicensed qualified Charitable Nonprofit organization? YES

Reasoning:

Pursuant to RCW 9.46.0321, a charitable/nonprofit (C/NP) organization that meets the qualifications of RCW 9.46.0209 to conduct bingo may possess bingo equipment without a license.

WAC 230-12-335 states, "It will be the responsibility of all licensees to ensure that gambling equipment is closely controlled and possessed only by authorized persons." RCW 9.46.0321 authorizes C/NP organizations to conduct bingo without a license up to two times per year. Therefore, a C/NP organization may possess bingo equipment without a license.

In addition, the Commission intended to allow the transfer of equipment between persons who could legally possess the equipment. Therefore, a licensed distributor or manufacturer may sell bingo equipment to a C/NP organization that is qualified to conduct bingo under the gambling laws and rules, including the organizations noted above.

Approved: Cally Cass
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